CLAIMS

1. An assembly of at least two elements that is intended to be mounted on board a spacecraft and in which said elements may occupy relative to one another either a folded position or a deployed position, wherein said elements are secured to the same side of a flexible inflated mattress and wherein, when said elements are in the folded state, said mattress is in the deflated state and is folded so that said elements are situated in pairs on either side of a fold of said mattress.

2. The assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inflation of said mattress results from the expansion, in space, of the gas contained in said mattress in the folded state, on earth.

3. The assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inflation of said mattress is achieved by blowing in an inflating gas.

4. The assembly as claimed in claim 1, which comprises means for stiffening said mattress when said elements are in the deployed state.

5. The assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein said stiffening means comprise a curable resin.

6. The assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when said mattress is in the deflated state and when said elements are in the folded state, said folded mattress is arranged between two adjacent elements.

7. The assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when said mattress is in the deflated state and when said elements are in the folded state, said folded mattress surrounds two adjacent elements.

8. The assembly as claimed in claim 6, which comprises a plurality of elements forming at least one alignment and wherein, when said mattress is in the deflated state and when said elements are in the folded state, said mattress is folded on itself around fold lines that each pass between two consecutive elements of said alignment and that are directed transversely with respect to said alignment so that, in turn, said folded mattress is arranged between two consecutive elements and surrounds two consecutive elements.

9. The assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein said plurality of elements forms an array of rows and columns and wherein, when said mattress is in the deflated state and when said elements are in the folded state, said mattress can be folded on itself around fold lines that each pass between two columns of elements so that, in turn, said folded mattress is arranged between two consecutive columns of elements and surrounds two consecutive columns of elements.

10. The assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein said plurality of elements forms an array of rows and columns and wherein, when said mattress is in the deflated state and when said elements are in the folded state, said mattress can be folded on itself around fold lines that each pass between two rows of elements so that, in turn, said folded mattress is arranged between two consecutive rows of elements and surrounds two consecutive rows of elements.